

SENATOR STEVE PEACE (Ret.)

Biography

Steve Peace was appointed January 20, 2003, by Governor Gray Davis to serve as the Director of the California Department of Finance. As the Governor's chief financial advisor, the Director of Finance promotes responsible resource allocation through the State's annual budget, ensures the financial integrity of the State's departments, and serves on over 50 state boards and commissions, including the State Lands Commission, the Franchise Tax Board, the State Allocation Board, the State Teachers' Retirement System, as well as the State Infrastructure Bank.

Steve Peace recently ended a twenty-year career in the California Legislature, having represented areas of San Diego and Imperial Counties in the Assembly from 1982 to 1994, and in the Senate until November 2002.

During his legislative tenure, Mr. Peace served as Chairman of several legislative committees, including Senate Budget and Fiscal Review, Privacy, Energy, Utilities and Communications, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, and the Assembly Committee on Finance Insurance and Bonded Indebtedness.

Early in his political career, Steve Peace signaled both his independence and his willingness to take on tough fights when, in 1988, as an Assemblyman, he joined four Democratic colleagues in an effort to reform the California Legislature itself. Taking on powerful leaders from both parties, the "Gang of Five" and their year-long battle for reform led to many significant changes, including subjecting legislative committees to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act.

During his time in the Legislature, Senator Peace earned a reputation as the person the Legislature turns to on particularly difficult and complex issues. Mr. Peace is credited with presiding over forums that have been described as "bipartisan," "exhaustive," and "open to a full airing of views."

During the last five years, Senator Peace chaired the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, the Committee responsible for crafting the Senate's version of the State Budget. He twice chaired the Budget Conference Committee, the two-house select committee that negotiates the final version of the state budget. Senator Peace was the first Budget chair in 11 years to successfully lead the Legislature to pass the State budget on time.

In January 2001, Senator Peace was appointed as Chairman of the newly created Committee on Privacy. As the first legislative committee in

the Country dedicated to privacy protection, the Privacy Committee reviews all legislation pending before the Legislature dealing with privacy, personal privacy protection, and other issues where the personal information of individuals may be compromised.

In 2000, Senator Peace wrote and secured the passage of a sweeping new law to protect the privacy of individuals' personal information. Senate Bill 129 created the Office of Privacy Protection within the Department of Consumer Affairs to inform the public of potential options for protecting their privacy, receive complaints concerning persons unlawfully using others' personal information, and to help prosecute identity theft and other privacy-related crimes. In 2000, Senator Peace also introduced legislation to re-open California's primary elections to "declined-to-state" (DTS) voters after the Supreme Court's decision to overturn California's Open Primary initiative. Senate Bill 28 allows political parties the option of opening their Party's primaries to DTS voters, empowering over two million independent voters.

In 1996, as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communications, Senator Peace was tasked with negotiating Assembly Bill 1890 (Brulte), which amended the California Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) 1995 decision to restructure the state's electric industry. AB 1890 made several key improvements to the PUC decision, including funding for renewable energy programs, a 10% rate reduction for residential and small business users, a debt-financing mechanism to reduce small customers' debt for previous utility investments and a rate freeze to protect retail customers from wholesale electricity price risk.

In 1994, Senator Peace authored a series of criminal justice reform measures signed by then-Governor Pete Wilson, which significantly increased penalties for violent criminals, including the "one strike and you're out" bill aimed at violent sex offenders.

In 1990, as the Chair of the Assembly Finance, Insurance, and Public Investment Committee, Assemblymember Peace successfully designed a bipartisan workers' compensation reform package which exceeded all expectations by slashing employer costs by almost \$4 billion per year between 1992 and 2000 while simultaneously increasing benefits to genuinely injured workers.

In 1992, Mr. Peace co-authored with Senator Marion Bergeson landmark legislation creating the California Infrastructure Bank.

Senator Peace's track-record of effective legislation has earned him recognition from a broad-base group of organizations. Various groups have recognized Senator Peace as Legislator of the Decade and Legislator of the

Year. In 2000, Senator Peace received three of the highest "Minnie" awards presented by the California Journal, including most intelligent, hardest working, and Legislator of the Year. The Minnies are awarded based on nominations from: Capitol staff, journalists, lobbyists, and administration officials.

Previously, Mr. Peace served as Chief Financial Officer of Four Square Productions, a multimedia production company he co-founded in 1973, which today is San Diego's largest producer of commercial and corporate films, videotapes, and multi-media presentations. Four Square is also known for its 1978 original feature film, "Attack of the Killer Tomatoes" and its three sequels, as well as a "Killer Tomatoes" Saturday morning animated series on the Fox Children's Network. Before accepting the position as Director of Finance, Mr. Peace left Four Square in 2002 to become the CEO of KTEntertainment, a motion picture and television production venture based in Westwood, California.

Steve Peace was born and raised in San Diego, the son of two teachers. He served as Student Body President at Bonita Vista High School in Chula Vista, and upon graduation in 1971 attended the University of California, Davis for two years and graduated from the University of California at San Diego (UCSD) with a degree in Political Science. Steve and Cheryl Peace married in 1974 and have three children, Clint (23), Bret (21), and Chad (18), all currently attending California universities.